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## FACT SHEET

### Kajakai Hydropower Plant

#### Energy Development for the South Eastern Provinces of Afghanistan

##### BACKGROUND

In October 2002, USAID agreed to participate in a national irrigation and power rehabilitation program of Afghanistan's Ministry of Energy and Water. The program's focus is to restore the water supply for local communities, to rehabilitate irrigation systems for farmlands and to provide sufficient electrical power for residents, industries and commerce by harnessing potential hydropower from various rivers. USAID focused on the rehabilitation of the Kajakai multi-purpose dam in the Great Helmand River Valley.

##### BENEFITS

- A self-sustaining and secure energy supply for the southern populated areas of Kajakai, Kandahar and Lashkar Gah for 1.7 million beneficiaries.
- Both the Kajakai hydropower plant and the transmission system are of vital importance to the region since there are no alternative sources of electric power other than high cost electricity from diesel units.
- During the on-going work at Kajakai, USAID has been funding the provision of emergency power to key market areas of Kandahar and Lashkar Gah to "keep the lights on" until the Kajakai rehabilitation can supply the region's electricity needs.
- To date, Unit 1 has been fully rehabilitated and currently produces 16.5 MW of reliable power.
- The rehabilitation of Unit 3 will commence upon resolution of security problems at Kajakai. Scheduled completion is 12 months after start of construction.
- A new 18.5 MW Unit 2 turbine/generator has been contracted for installation. Construction will commence upon resolution of security problems. The scheduled completion is 12 months after the start of construction.
- With the three units, the hydropower plant will have a capacity of 51 MW. Engineering work is also being funded by USAID to increase the height of the dam to augment downstream irrigated areas from what today is estimated to be 142,000 hectares to well over 350,000 hectares.
- The raising of the dam will also increase the potential hydropower capacity by an additional 50MW in the future.
- In 2006, subject to resolution of security concerns, USAID plans to begin rehabilitation of the 110 KV transmission line and substations currently transmitting limited electricity from Kajakai to Lashkar Gah and Kandahar.



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- In 2006, subject to resolution of security concerns, USAID will begin the construction on a new 220 KV transmission line and additional substations to support the planned expansion of the Kajakai hydropower plant will begin. This transmission line construction is also planned to be completed in 2008.
- The design and reconstruction of the road leading from the Kandahar-Herat National Highway (K-H Road), near the city of Girishk, a distance of approximately 87 kilometers, will commence in late summer with the anticipated completion by early 2008.
- The road is required to allow reliable year-round access to Kajakai Dam and powerhouse, and the Sangin community, by connecting the dam and local communities to the K-H Road.
- The reconstructed road will allow the farming communities to transport their products to markets at a reduced cost.

### FUNDING

- \$96 million for the transmission lines, substations and road
- \$25 on-going construction for Turbines 2 & 3.
- \$4 million for operations and maintenance, camp maintenance and security, and new airfield.
- \$26M for the 87 Km Girishk- Kajakai road.

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